

IWAN WIJONO



Iwan Wijono was born in 25 January 1971 in Central Java. While studying international law in Jogjakarta he became active in the pro-democracy movement against the Soeharto regime. He eventually enrolled in the ISI (Indonesian Art Institute), where he began looking for a practical form of art that would express his political ideals. His early performance art activities on the street have evolved to include arts events both locally and internationally. This is his first performance in Canada.

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A few decades ago, under the Soeharto regime in the city of Solo, Central Java, where the influence of the feudal culture is still strong. Also where the global culture situation (from the west) is dominated and becomes the standard of existence for the middle class to the top.

In the nineties, Iwan moved to Jogja to study International Law at Universitas Islam Indonesia. While studying in this faculty, he started to understand how to read the map of socializing with other countries of the world, and to understand that countries that have previously been colonized, can also then become the new colonies of the type of people who have previously colonized them. While studying law Wijono was active with other students within the pro-democracy movement who opposed Soeharto, who was known to be KKN (Collusion, corruption and nepotism) and to guard against the continuation of the power of the Soeharto government who were known to be feudalistic, capitalistic and militaristic. And moreover the young Indonesians who had a new ideology that is 3M: Microsoft, Mc Donalds, and MTV.

In the third year living in Jogja as a city with lots of art activity and seeing many art activities both traditional and contemporary, in the end Wijono enrolled as a student of painting at ISI - Indonesian Art Institute, moving between both campuses, as well as places where the student activists met, as well as socializing with the street art scene, and the tourists and foreigners in Jalan Malioboro.

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